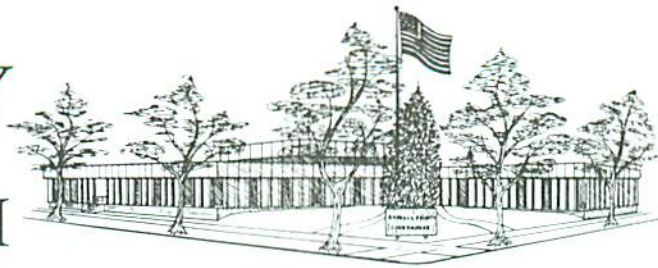


# COUNTY OF RAVALLI



Jim Morton  
Sapphire Community Health Center, Inc.  
316 North Third Street, Suite 152  
Hamilton, Montana 59840

Dear Jim:

The members of the Ravalli County Board of County Commissioners would like to express support for the Sapphire Community Health Center, Inc. application to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services for funding under the Montana Community Health Center Support Act.

Sapphire Community Health Center (CHC) is requesting funds to establish a community health center that will provide primary and preventive care to lower income residents of Ravalli County. The Community Health Center will be located in Hamilton, Montana. The CHC model of comprehensive primary and preventive care, which will be offered on a sliding fee scale to those at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline, will assist our many lower income and uninsured residents to access quality health care.

Of the approximately 40,582 people who reside in the county, 15,827 (39%) have incomes under 200% of poverty (Census Estimate, 2006). In Ravalli County 7,183 (17.7%) of the county population is uninsured (Census 2000, Small Area Health Estimate). The 2006 Bureau of Census estimates indicate that in Montana 33.3 percent of the population is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline, however in Ravalli County 39 percent of the population is at or below the 200 percent guideline.

The Ravalli County Board of Commissioners is concerned about the health of all county residents, and therefore is pleased to be a partner with Sapphire Community Health Center, Inc. in its efforts to bring accessible quality primary care to those medically underserved residents of Ravalli County.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF RAVALLI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Carlotta Grandstaff, Chairman

  
Alan Thompson, Member

  
Kathleen Driscoll, Member

- Absent -  
James E. Rokosch, Member

  
Greg Chilcott, Member